

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 00584 190921Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 /016 W
-----190926Z 004985 /15

R 190600Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 805
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0584

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC AMSG MI
SUBJECT: SECURITY POSTURE OF OVERSEAS POSTS

REF: STATE 86022

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES DECEMBER 1973 ASSESSMENT OF NEED FOR MSG STILL STANDS, BASICALLY FOR THE SAME REASONS. LIFE PRESIDENT BANDA IS HYPERSENSITIVE TO SECURITY. BORDERS ARE EXTREMELY TIGHT, ARABS AND COMMUNISTS SUSPECT AND UNWELCOME, AND ANTI-TERRORIST POSTURE WELL ESTABLISHED. BIG BROTHER ATMOSPHERE ALL PERVASIVE AND REACHES TO VILLAGE LEVEL. THERE VIRTUALLY NO REPEAT NO CHANCE OF SECURITY SURPRISES UNDER CURRENT REGIME. WHILE WE ARE CRITICAL OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF BANDA'S RULE, GOM IS FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT WITH POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES WELL DISCIPLINED AND EFFICIENT WITHIN AFRICAN CONTEXT. THUS, PRESENT INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION DOES NOT WARRANT MSG.

2. ON QUESTION OF NEED FOR MSG IN POST-BANDA ERA (PARA 3 REFTEL), EMBASSY'S BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT WHILE TRANSITION WOULD BE OPEN TO VAGARIES INHERENT IN SITUATION LACKING MECHANISM FOR TRANSFER OF POWER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE REGIME WILL FLIP-FLOP OR LURCH TO RADICALIZATION (SEE PART I PARM). WE BELIEVE NEW REGIME WILL SETTLE SOMEWHERE TO LEFT OF PRESENT BUT THAT TRANSITION WILL NOT INVOLVE WIDE-SCALE DISRUPTION NOR INVOLVE GREAT MAJORITY OF PEOPLE. WE WOULD EXPECT NEW REGIME
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TO BE RELATIVELY MODERATE AND STABLE AND FRIENDLY TOWARD U.S. THUS, WE DO NOT FORESEE NEED FOR MSG. ADMITTEDLY IT IS POSSIBLE SCENARIO MAY TURN OUT DIFFERENTLY, BUT WE DO NOT THINK THIS POSSIBILITY WARRANTS ATTEMPT AT THIS TIME TO OBTAIN GOM APPROVAL FOR MSG.
STEVENSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LILONG00584
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770135-0614
Format: TEL
From: LILONGWE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770443/aaaablfd.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 17edb4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 86022
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2766192
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY POSTURE OF OVERSEAS POSTS
TAGS: ASEC, MI, MSG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/17edb4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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